

May 18, 1983

LB 17

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp would move to return the bill for a specific amendment. The amendment is on page 2304 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, the amendment is eminently simple and I think fair, and what it does is it takes the supposed eleven million windfall and on a one-time basis puts it into the distribution to the cities. The rural areas end up with about half the money, in other words areas that have paid in on the sales tax on food and the crisis in Omaha and Lincoln that they allege is there would be averted for the one year. I guess I think it is a reasonable solution in view of the fact that the Governor has said he does not want this money or feels the need to return it to the people as a result of the repeal of the sales tax on food and the fairest way to return it is to put it back in the areas that are going to be most impacted. Now I know the Governor is not supporting this. I think he is unwise in not supporting it. It returns it to the people, puts it into the city portion of the formula and I think you have seen other studies that show you about what the breakdown would be, probably ten dollars per person, ten to eleven dollars per person, so in Omaha you would be talking a recovery of what, three and a half to four million of the five million they lost this year or going to be impacted by Lincoln a comparable amount. Rural areas for the first time would get something out of this legislative session. My town of Neligh would get \$18,000 which would go on property tax relief, we hope. A town like Sidney or Ogallala or Scottsbluff would get about \$10 per person, and that would be direct property tax relief. If you really want to treat the people fair with the money and you say you have to return it, then this seems to me to be the best way. I suggest you at least consider it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz, then Senator Lamb, then Senator Schmit, then Senator Kahle.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to oppose Senator DeCamp's amendment. The \$11 million windfall that we have been tossing around for the last few days definitely does not belong to the cities, it belongs to the people that pay the sales tax on food and I am cosponsor on an amendment that will take and return \$21 per person on the food sales tax credit. We talk so much about property tax relief and yet this very session we...not myself, of course, I opposed it...took away the